

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for adjusting the speed of operation of a channel for communicating with disk drives in a multi ported system organized into a plurality of enclosure services modules and having a first channel connected to a first enclosure services module and successively connected to successive enclosure services modules to a last enclosure services module in sequence and a second channel connected in reverse sequence to the last enclosure services module and successively connected to the successive enclosure services modules to the first enclosure services module, the steps comprising:

- (a) selecting an enclosure services module on the first channel, the enclosure service module being a last enclosure services module;
- (b) sending the change speed frame from a bridge controller to the selected enclosure services module;
- (c) waiting for an enclosure to come up on the second channel; and
- (d) when the enclosure comes up on the second channel, checking whether the selected enclosure service module is the first enclosure service module on the first channel,

wherein the second channel is the channel for which the speed is to be changed and the multi ported system includes more than two ports.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim [[3]] 1, wherein each of the

plurality of enclosure services modules has a speed of its enclosure changed on the second channel.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein there is a third channel.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the disk drives are fibre channel disk drives.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein change speed frame is in a frame format.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the disk drives recognize, on the fly, that the speed has been changed.

9. (Currently Amended) A system for adjusting the speed of operation of a channel for communicating with disk drives in a multi ported system, comprising:

a bridge controller having a first channel and a second channel; and

a plurality of enclosure services modules, each on the first channel connected in sequence from a first enclosure services module and successively connected to successive enclosure services modules to a last enclosure services module and each on the second channel connected in reverse sequence from the last enclosure services module and successively connected to the successive enclosure services modules to the first enclosure services module,

wherein the bridge controller sends a speed change frame to each of the plurality of enclosure service modules on the first channel in sequence from the last enclosure services module to the first enclosure services module and the second channel is a channel for which the speed is to be changed and the multi ported system includes more than two ports.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Amended) The system of Claim 9, wherein the each of the first and second channel is bi-directional.
12. (Previously Amended) The system of Claim 9, wherein the disk drives are fibre channel disk drives.
13. (Previously Amended) The system of Claim 9, wherein the enclosure services modules each have bypass circuitry to bypass individual disk drives.
14. (Previously Amended) The system of Claim 9, wherein the enclosure services modules each have a microprocessor.
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Currently Amended) A system for passing a signal to a chain of electrically connected devices having a first channel and a second channel and the devices including more than two device nodes, comprising:
 - a controller device for sending a command signal through the first channel to change a speed of the second channel; and
 - a plurality of subservient devices for receiving the command signal sent from the controller device, each of the plurality of subservient devices executing commands based on the command signal,
 - wherein the controller device is connected both in an open chain manner to the subservient devices in a forward order and in a physically separate reverse order through the first channel and the second channel.
17. (Previously Amended) The system of Claim 16, wherein the forward connection and the reverse connection define the first channel and the second channel.
18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Amended) The system of Claim 16, wherein the controller device is a bridge controller and the subservient devices are enclosure services modules for disk drives.

20. (Original) The system of Claim 19, wherein the command signal is a speed change frame in a frame format and the disk drives are fibre channel disk drives.

21. (Original) The system of Claim 20, wherein system employs a method for passing a command signal to a chain of electrically connected devices having at least two channels, comprising:

using one of the channels to pass the command signal to the chain of electrically connected devices; and

using the other of the channels to make changes to a parameter regarding the chain of electrically connected devices for that channel.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Amended) The method as described Claim 1, further comprises if the selected enclosure services module is not the first enclosure service module,

selecting an enclosure services module which is next successive to the selected enclosure services module on the first channel and have not received the change speed frame; and

repeating the steps (b), (c), and (d) with the newly selected enclosure services module until the first enclosure service module on the first channel is selected and receives the speed change frame.